the Central Government will be glad to extend all assistance to them. It is not possible to lay down any time limit for resolving these matters.

Stateless people of Nepalese origin residing in Sikkim

1147. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over thirty thousand stateless people of Nepalese origin in Sikkim; and

(b if so, what measures are being taken to grant them Indian citizenship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) An order was issued on 16th May, 1975 under Section 7 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 providing that every person who immediately before 26th April, 1975 (date when Sikkim became the 22nd State of the Indian Union) was a Sikkim Subject under the Sikkim Subjects Regulation, 1961, would be deemed to have become a Citizen of India. Those who were not registered under the aforesaid Regulation of 1961, or were not eligible to be so registered are among the persons who may be regarded as stateless, unless they have a claim to any other nationality.

The claims of such persons for citizenship are to be considered with due caution keeping in view the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Implementation of recommendations of ...Pande Committee . ..

1148. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state by when the freight equalisation policy is likely to be implemented as recommended by the Pande Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): The modalities and time phasing of the withdrawal of freight equalisation scheme in respect of iron and steel are being worked out in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned. It is not possible at this stage to give a time schedule for its phasing out.

Prime Minister's visit to various foreign . countries ..

1149. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister visited a number of countries during the period from 1st January, 1984 to 30th June, 1984;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome of those visits;

(c) the details of the talks held with dignitaries there, protocols signed and agreements arrived at;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a number of foreign dignitaries have met and held talks with the Prime Minister during the period from 1st January, 1984 to 30th June, 1984 when they visited this country; and

(e) if so, the details of the talks agreement arrived at and protocols signed in India and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prime Minister visited the Soviet Union from February 13—15, 1984 to attend the funeral of the late President Yuri Andropov. The opportunity was utilised to exchange views with the new Soviet leader Mr. K. Chernenko on international affairs and matters of bilateral interest.

The Prime Minister visited Libya (April 7-8, 1984) and Tunisia (April 8-9, 1984) in response to long standing invitations. The discussions with the leaders of these two countries focussed on international situation, particularly situation in West Asia, the Iran—Iraq war, and all the various aspects of bilateral relations. While in Tunisia, the Prime Minister also met Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the P.L.O. and Mr. Chedli Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The talks centred round the prevailing international situation and bilateral relations. An agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed between India and Qatar.

Communal Riots in the Country

1150. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Communal riots which took place in the country during the period from the 1st January to the 30th June, 1984 indicating their dates, places of occurence, the number of persons killed and value of property damaged; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to prevent this menace of communal riots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Communal riots took place in Maharashtra (Bombay, Bhiwandi, Thane and Kalyan) during 17th May, 1984 (Sporadic incidents continued till end of May and again from 20th June to end of June), Karnataka (Banglore, Dharwar-Hubli) during 10|11th March, 4th May and 24/25th June respectively and West Bengal (Kidderpore) on 17th March, 1984.

In these riots a total of 302 persons were killed and property worth approximately Rs. 826.23 lakhs were damaged/lost.

(b) The necessity of maintaining peace and communal harmony has time and again been stressed on the State Governments. Suggestions have been made to them to streamline the administrative and intelligence machinery and for measures like arrests of anti-social elements, search and seizure for the recovery of arms and ammunition and action against elements inciting communalism. It has been also suggested to some of the States that they may undertake indepth study of the causes for communal incidents in communally sensitive areas. Central forces are made available to the States as and when the request for the same are made.

पंजाब में व्याप्त स्थिति के प्रति अमरीकी कांग्रेस के सदस्यों द्वारा दिखाई गई दिलचस्पी

1151. **श्री सत्यपाल मलिक :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस तथ्य की जानकारी है कि अमरीकी कांग्रेस के अग्रणी सदस्य पंजाब की मौजूदा स्थिति के बारे में गहरी दिलचस्पी ले रहे है और वे सिक्ख आंदोलन के अमरीका स्थित नेताओं के साथ निरन्तर सम्पर्क बनाये हुये है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ए० ए० रहीम) : (क) और (ख) भारत सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि अमरीका आस्थानी खालिस्तान समर्थक कुछ सिक्ख, अमरीकी कांग्रेस के कतिपय सदस्यों के साथ सम्पर्क बनाये हुये हैं। सरकार को यह भी मालूम है कि पहले तथाकथित खालिस्तान आन्दोलन के एक नेता की अमरीका यात्रा, अमरीकी कांग्रेस के एक सदस्य द्वारा प्रायोजित की गई थी। भारत सरकार ने इस बारे में अपनी चिन्ता और कड़े विरोध की सूचना से अमरीका सरकार को अवगत करा दिया है।

Meeting in Dhaka of U.S. Envoys of South Asia

1152. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. envoys in South Asia recently met in Dhaka and decided to (i) forge strong military links between Bangladesh and Pakistan; (ii) bring the Bay of Bengal completely under U.S. navy with Chittagong as U.S. base and (iii) coordinate with Israel commandos in Sri Lanka; and